

December 28, 2004

Project 184 Weekly Update
Website: www.project184.org

Summary of Environmental Planning and Compliance Activities
For Project 184
In 2004

Mill to Bull Tunnel

Substantial progress was made this year in placing the tunnel spoils on USFS joint use roads. EID staff using heavy equipment completed the placement of all the Weber Mill tunnel spoils pile and the Plum Creek spoils piles this year. EN2 Resources has prepared the notice of terminations for these two sites, along with Alder Creek Road, Esmeralda Road, and Flume 39-40. Remaining permits include the Sand Flat tunnel spoils pile, which is scheduled to be placed in the spring of 2005, and the completion of Spillway 20, which falls under the open Mill to Bull Tunnel SWPPP permit. EN2 Resources is completing the filing for all open permits. This will be accomplished by filing the notice of terminations for as many open permits that EID has completed, prior to the SWPPP permit renewal time of July 1, 2005.

Pest Management Program (a.k.a. Environmental Assessment)

EID has developed a project description for the proposed Pest Management Program along Project 184 facilities. Vegetation and rodents have the ability to cause substantial damage to Project 184 facilities, (especially canal benches and dams) by establishing root systems and burrowing holes, thereby weakening these earthen facilities. Failure of one of these facilities could result in substantial damage and loss of natural resources and risk human safety. Establishing a Pest Management Program will allow EID to minimize the risk to facility damage and human safety. The project description for the proposed program will allow EID to complete California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review in coordination with state and federal agencies. During winter of 2005 EID will continue to move forward with the environmental analysis required to implement this program.

New License Activities

The Relicensing Settlement Agreement's requirement for an initial trout survey and removal from ponds downstream of the Lake Aloha auxiliary dams was completed in Fall 2004. Trout surveys and fish removal from the ponds will be required following future spill events at the auxiliary dams. The ponds are known habitat for the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the non-native brook trout in Lake Aloha are known predators of the frog.

EID initiated work on the Transportation Management and Trails Management Plans that are required for roads and trails on USFS lands. Written clarification on the scope of the plans, and District requirements for road/trail maintenance, was obtained in September

2004. The plans are expected to be completed by mid-2005 and will identify EID's maintenance responsibilities associated with Project 184 operations.

A third new, near-term license requirement is the planning and installation of fish screens at the Carpenter Creek and Alder Creek diversions into the Canal. Planning, design, and permitting for these fish screens will be combined with work required for the Bull Creek Residential Tract road culvert replacement as described below for the Spillway 20 Reconstruction Project in 2005.

Spillway 20

As of December 23 the contractor Cal Electro has installed the (three) gates and is working on completing the passive spill. As weather permits they will proceed with pouring the remaining concrete floor, and back wall. Once this is completed Cal Electro will be out of the flow line, thus allowing full operation of the canal. EID is developing an Interim Operations Plan for Spillway 20 in consultation with the USFS, CA Department of Fish and Game, and SWRCB. The Interim Operations Plan will be in effect until the Bull Creek Residential Tract road culvert is replaced (SWRCB permit deadline of 2006) and a Final Operations Plan is developed in consultation with the same agencies. On a faster timeline is the requirement for an alarm system to be installed prior to the first operation of Spillway 20.

Mill Creek Bore Hole (Diversion Tie-In to Mill to Bull Tunnel)

No further progress has been made at this time.

Lake Aloha Telemetry and Dam Maintenance

The District has installed the Lake Aloha Telemetry station and has completed the dam repairs. This site is working well.

Echo Lake Conduit Repairs

EID staff completed the installation of the automated gate valve which controls the flows in the Echo Conduit. Staff completed repairs to the conduit prior to flowing water this year. Depending on engineering evaluations, some repairs to the conduit tunnel may also be performed in 2005-2006.

Project 184 Operation

Powerhouse Update:

The powerhouse operated from January 2004 until August 12, 2004. In August EID ran out of water due to minimal storage and operations under the existing license requiring higher flow rates. On December 13, 2004 EID resumed powerhouse operations. It is expected that EID will continue generating power into January with available storage. Further operations will depend on receiving additional precipitation. We are currently operating one generator between 6-8 MW averaging 160 MW/Hrs in a 24 hour period. By April of 2004 EID contractor was able to complete the performance testing of the powerhouse. This completed Alstom's contract for rebuilding the powerhouse. The

performance testing was delayed due to not having water available. In late March spring runoff from river flows allowed EID staff to fully commission the powerhouse. PG&E completed its reconductoring of the switchyard on April 28, 2004 and EID resumed power generation on April 29, 2004 until August 12, 2004. EID estimates that it will have generated 63,433 MW/hours through December 31, 2004 in a dry year. Painting of the powerhouse is scheduled to be performed in 2005.

Canal

This year EID staff completed the rebuilding of Flume 52 during our maintenance outage in November. An inspection was performed on both the Alder and Plum creek siphons. In early January of 2004, EID determined that ice was collecting in the tunnel. The District began construction of Spillway 20 where several hundred trees were removed that threatened the safe operations of the canal and flumes. The canal is being patrolled on a daily basis and there have been no major problems found which would prevent the canal from being filled to its capacity. In 2004 SCADA was being manned 24 hours a day to ensure reliability and safe operations of the canal during the higher flows of spring runoff. EID experienced only one canal outage when a tree fell into the canal below alarm 15.

The residential houses located on the canal have been filled by Camp #5 Hydro employees who will help ensure safe canal operation.

Several logging activities have taken place this year. One at Camp 5 and the other in the area of the Forebay.

EID is completing engineering and cultural/biological constraints evaluations on the slide between Flumes 6 and 7. A request for bid for the repairs to the Flumes 6 and 7 slide, and the Camp 2 Road slide, will be released by spring 2005.

Engineering is working on a flume replacement program and other CIP work between 2005-2008.

Training- Mike Taylor, USFS El Dorado National Forest Conducted this Training:

This Noxious Weed Training was given by the United States Forest Service on the proper way to clean equipment before it is moved from one location to another to minimize the transporting of noxious weeds. This class was very informative and I would recommend this as a public workshop for all El Dorado County residents to spread awareness.

Echo Lake

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the conduit has been shut down for the winter. A letter has been sent to the agency requesting permission to remove the EAP site for the winter. Plans and a schedule are being drawn up to repair or replace the conduit and tunnel at Echo Lake in project phases over the next few years. The slumps and rock fall, which has occurred in the tunnel, have been surveyed and plans are being made to repair them. Safety fence has been installed around the areas of concern.

Caples Lake

Work has been completed on the rip raping of the Caples Lake Main Dam and Auxiliary Dam. The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized. All the project signs have been replaced with new EID signage warning the public of potential hazards.

Silver Lake

The radial gates are fully opened, the flashboards removed for winter and the facilities have been winterized. EID staff completed the automated gate installation as required by DSOD. Staff painted all the gates and handrails.

Lake Aloha

EID staff completed the Lake Aloha dam, telemetry installation and repairs.

Our telemetry indicates that our staff reading is currently at 10.42 = 641AF. Lake Aloha is shut down for the winter, which is the normal operating pattern.

**Listed below are the Projects readings for December 27, 2004,
Taken from SCADA:**

	Staff	Ac. Ft.	Draft
Echo Lake	0	0	0
Echo Conduit	0		0
Echo Creek	1.59		0
Caples Lake	43.17ft	11848	51.5
Silver Lake	7.20	2047	17.1
Pyramid Creek	1.54=7.31		

There is 60.8cfs being released into the canal at intake and 57.6 cfs flowing in the South Fork of the American River at intake.

A-17 Forebay Storage 3,797.89=312 AF.

A-18 EID Irrigation Usage is 8.48 cfs.

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